

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 /088 W

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R 030900Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8578
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KARACHI 0013

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG, AF, NP, IR, US

SUBJ: BHUTTO COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, DURING AN INFORMAL JANUARY 2 PRESS CONFERENCE AT THATTA, SIND, REPORTEDLY COMMENTED ON PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH NEARBY STATES. IN RESPONSE TO NEWSMAN'S QUESTIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER

-- DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD SENT A "SINCERE" INVITATION TO AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAUD TO COME TO PAKISTAN FOR TALKS ON REMOVING DIFFERENCES AND NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TO WHICH NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED;

-- SAID THAT "THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ANY NEED" FOR AN INDO-PAK SUMMIT MEETING, THERE HAVING BEEN "NO DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS RESPECT SO FAR";

-- RULED OUT FURTHER CONTACTS WITH PRIME MINISTER MUJIBUR RAHMAN OF BANGLADESH AS LONG AS THAT COUNTRY CONTINUED TO MAKE "FANTASTIC", "ABSURD" DEMANDS REGARDING THE DIVISION OF

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ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN; AND

-- DENIED THAT EITHER PAKISTAN OR IRAN HAD "HEGEMONIC AMBITIONS" IN THE PERSIAN GULF, IN CONTRAST WITH INDIA, WHICH IN ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD HAD ABSORBED SIKKIM AND PRESSURED BHUTAN, BANGLADESH, AND NEPAL. (IN A DECEMBER 28 INTERVIEW WITH VISITING IRANIAN JOURNALIST, BHUTTO HAD EXPRESSED "COMPLETE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE" IN THE SHAH, AND CRITICIZED INDIAN EFFORTS TO SUPPLANT PAKISTANI INFLUENCE AMONG THE GULF SHEIKHDOMS).

2. BHUTTO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN FEBRUARY, BUT REFUSED TO REVEAL THE DATE, WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY BOTH COUNTRIES. BHUTTO THEN FLEW TO HYDERABAD, SIND, WHERE HE WILL MEET WITH NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER NAGENDRA PRASAD RIJAL ON JANUARY 3.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KARACH00013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750003-0248
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750180/aaaacshr.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JAN 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES
TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG, AF, NP, IR, XF, US, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006